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ALBANIA

November 1953

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ex-King Zog's position vis-a-vis the Egyptian authorities continued to deteriorate throughout November, and he has not yet been able to obtain a statement of the exact charges against him. The 1 November seizure by subterfuge of all arms of his household and continuing press attacks have convinced Zog that the Egyptians are determined to try him on trumped-up charges or under some new retroactive decree aimed specifically at him. He has expressed willingness to accept the best possible compromise in order to get his family and the balance of his assets safely out of Egypt. In an effort to moderate Egyptian persecution of Zog a press campaign has been initiated in United States news organs. The suggestion made by Vice Premier Gamal abd al Nasser, that the U.S. purchase Zog's gold for dollars, later selling the gold to the Egyptian banks for Egyptian pounds to be used in paying current U.S. Government expenses in Egypt, has been endorsed by Ambassador Caffery, although [ ] believes that Zog's difficulties go beyond the question of his gold.

On 5 November Albania and the "German Democratic Republic" issued a joint communique stating that, in an effort to consolidate and expand the friendly relations existing between the two countries in the political, economic and cultural fields, the two Governments had decided to raise their respective diplomatic missions to embassies and to exchange ambassadors.

On 9 November Radio Tirana stated that the Joint Albanian-Yugoslav border commission had resumed its talks at Ohrida on the settlement of outstanding border questions. These negotiations, which began on 17 August, were broken off by the Yugoslavs on 27 September because Albania allegedly refused to accept Yugoslav compromise proposals for the prompt settlement of border incidents. On 14 October Albania sent a note to the Yugoslav Ministry for Foreign Affairs suggesting resumption of the negotiations.

On 13 November Radio Tirana reported that Albania was seeking the establishment of a joint Albanian-Greek commission for the purpose of replacing border markers along the frontier and that the Albanian Foreign Minister had sent a telegram to the Secretary General of the U.N. on 12 November outlining such a proposal and requesting that it be forwarded to the Greek Government. The commission would meet alternatively on Albanian and Greek territory, the first meeting to convene in Bilisht, Albania on 15 December.

2. [ ] SYNOPSIS

The Albanian Project GEOFUS is directed [ ] by the Project [ ] handles the interrogation and screening of Albanian refugees. [ ] Project [ ] spent several weeks in Rome in November assisting the GEOFUS case officer there in negotiations with members of the NCFA on broadening the Committee.

3. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY - (GEOFUS)

A. Parasilitary

(1) The crew of the covert C-47 which was forced to make an emergency landing in Brindisi, Italy, after a resupply mission over Albania, reported that the aircraft was fired upon from a total of seven anti-aircraft positions while over the Apple/2 base team's DE. The crew stated that as the plane crossed the "T" at an airspeed of 105 mph two anti-aircraft batteries opened fire. The aircraft banked to the right and five additional anti-aircraft positions began firing. The crew reported that only the pilot's exceptional skill in handling the plane enabled them to

escape.

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escape. Although it is not known how long the Apple/2 team has been under control, it is now believed to have been for several months. A report received from Istanbul states that a trusted follower of ex-king Zog was sent to Yugoslavia in October from Istanbul to determine the fate of this team whose leaders were supplied by Zog. Upon his return, the emissary reported that the team leader was a prisoner in the Ministry of Interior undergoing investigation by the Minister of Interior, who was said to be transmitting deception material using captured ciphers. The source of the information reported that the team was betrayed to the Sigurini by a relative and that two transmitters were also captured.

B. Political-Psychological - (GROFUS)

(1) Agreement was reached with the British on the composition of a broadened National Committee for Free Albania, which would consist of a seven-man executive committee and a forty-man consultative committee. The members of the NCFA were informed on 23 November of the new plan. Invitations to serve on the reconstituted committee were sent to those individuals who had been agreed upon by the British and ourselves, with a request that they indicate within 72 hours whether they were willing to accept. As foreseen, certain members of the Balli Kombetar Party refused to accept the proposal and stated their intention to withdraw from the NCFA. Mr. Hasan Dosti, President of the BK and Chairman of the NCFA, plans to depart for Rome at once in an effort to unite his party and assure its cooperation. Representatives of the other major political parties all accepted the invitation to serve on the new executive committee. However, some representatives of these parties have declined a place in the advisory group. The NCFA has now been given until 7 December to reach final agreement on the Committee's composition.

(2) On the night of 22/23 November, a successful propaganda flight was carried out over Albania. In addition to token food packets, 300,000 copies of the Shqipëria digest were dropped over major cities. Eighteen shell bursts were observed at one point in the flight.

(3) On 26 November [ ] arranged to fly 18 press, radio and newsreel representatives to Corfu to interview two Albanian refugees who seized control of the ten-ton Albanian freighter Dynama after dragging the mine of its captain and two "guards" while en route between Valona and Santi Quaranta.

(4) The NCFA fortnightly newspaper, Shqipëria, was printed in Rome on schedule and distributed. The digest version was printed in Germany for use in air drops.

(5) The clandestine radio transmitter located near Athens maintained a regular broadcast schedule during November.

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